

SECRET

19 January 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Possible Commitment of Freds Z. LAUNAGS

1. On 14 January 1966 I discussed briefly with [ ] (Office of General Counsel) the possibility of the Agency initiating steps to have LAUNAGS committed in a New York State mental institution. [ ] advised me that the commitment procedure in New York is fairly difficult, and he offered to send me a memorandum outlining the limited number of methods of commitment. He suggested that the Secret Service would conceivably be in a better position to request Subject's commitment in view of the content of his threatening letters to the President of the United States.

2. On 18 January 1966 I briefed [ ] (CI Staff) on the current status of the LAUNAGS case. In the middle of our discussion, the Secret Service liaison officer, Mr. Frank Stoner, came into [ ] office and I proceeded to brief Stoner on the LAUNAGS case. He recalled vaguely our recent CSCI to the Secret Service on this matter. Stoner stated that the usual procedure in New York State was for them to commit individuals for a period of 30 days for observation. During this interval the patients were given shock and other treatments. Most frequently they are then given the run of the institution and normally escape, since it is not a prison type of detention situation. Stoner stated that he would check the LAUNAGS' file in their office and let me know whether they could proceed.

[ ]

C/SR/O/AC

21 Jan '66

See Report forwarded by Stoner. On basis of feelings by the Secret Service Agents, they will not proceed with commitment action, since Launags appears not to be a substantial threat.

[ ] SECRET

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006